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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 3, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 26 totaled an estimated 15.0 billion ton-miles, 13.5 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The 1983 week included the George Washington's Birthday holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 8 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 119.7 billion ton-miles, 4.5 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 26 totaled 348,229 cars, 15.7 percent below 1982, but 1.6 percent lower than the preceding non-holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 19.8 percent in the East, 12.7 percent in the South and 14.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, loadings of lumber and wood products posted a 15.2 percent gain and motor vehicles and equipment loadings increased by 11.5 percent. Thirteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 19 totaled 43,211 cars, up 22.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1982 and 74,307 trailers and/or containers, 19.4 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first seven weeks of the year was 285,492 cars, 18.1 percent higher than last year, and 486,791 trailers and/or containers, up 13.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/26/83:

	Loadings in Week ended February 26, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,302	D	5,304	17.9	D	4,080	14.4
Other farm products	3,158	D	2,073	39.6	I	164	5.5
Metallic ores	11,171	D	10,486	48.4	I	439	4.1
Coal	101,790	D	23,304	18.6	I	1,772	1.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,372	D	1,597	17.8	I	306	4.3
Nonmetallic minerals	8,555	D	963	10.1	D	2,388	21.8
Grain mill products	11,582	D	2,529	17.9	D	786	6.4
Food and kindred products	12,439	D	2,629	17.4	D	1,042	7.7
Primary forest products	14,927	D	3,361	18.4	I	224	1.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,391	I	976	15.2	I	218	3.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,446	D	2,844	15.5	I	162	1.1
Chemicals and allied products	23,086	D	2,547	9.9	D	276	1.2
Petroleum products	4,249	D	696	14.1	D	61	1.4
Stone, clay and glass products	8,740	D	1,524	14.8	I	144	1.7
Coke	4,952	D	539	9.8	I	318	6.9
Metals and products	8,572	D	4,698	35.4	I	367	4.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,396	I	1,694	11.5	I	138	0.8
Waste and scrap materials	7,725	D	2,093	21.3	I	83	1.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,510	D	1,923	18.4	D	917	9.7
All other carloads	47,671	I	2,876	6.4	D	549	1.1
LCL traffic	195	D	1,417	87.9	I	27	16.1
Total Cars Loaded	348,229	D	64,981	15.7	D	5,737	1.6
Corresponding week of 1982	413,210						

	1983	1982	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (8 weeks)	2,733,710	2,982,682	D 8.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
7 weeks ended February 19	104.7	108.0	D 3.1
Week ended February 26	15.0	17.4	D 13.5
8 weeks cumulative	119.7	125.4	D 4.5

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